

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DURBAN 00579 271434Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-05 IO-13 EB-08 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01

/089 W

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R 271220Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2603

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSULJOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L DURBAN 0579

EO 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJ: STATUS OF NATAL "TURNHALLE" OF "INDABA"

REF: DURBAN 351

1. BACKGROUND: THE NATAL "TURNHALLE" (NOW RECAST AS "INDABA" AFTER ZULU WORD FOR A CONFERENCE OF CHIEFS) WAS PROPOSED IN EARLY MAY BY THE NATAL PROVINCIAL COUNCIL AS A MEANS OF ACHIEVING GREATER MULTIRACIAL COOPERATION AND, HOPEFULLY, MORE EQUITABLE AND EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION IN NATAL. AS FRAMED BY THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL, THE PROPOSAL COULD CALL FOR A DEVOLUTION OF GREATER POWERS ON ALL PROVINCES (NOT JUST NATAL) TO DEAL WITH LOCAL PROBLEMS INCLUDING RACE RELATIONS. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DELAY, PRIME MINISTER VORSTER RECEIVED THE PRINCIPAL NATAL AUTHOR OF THE PROPOSAL, FRANK MARTIN, ON AUGUST 10 BUT NO PUBLIC COMMENT SUBSEQUENTLY WAS MADE BY EITHER SIDE REGARDING THE DISCUSSION.

2. MARTIN, ASKING THAT THE INFORMATION BE STRICTLY PROTECTED, DESCRIBED HIS INTERVIEW WITH VORSTER TO ME ON AUGUST 26.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 DURBAN 00579 271434Z

MARTIN SAID HE MADE VERY LOW-KEY PRESENTATION TO PRIME MINISTER TO AVOID GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT NATAL HAD "ALL THE ANSWERS" TO RACIAL PROBLEMS. HIS AIM, HE SAID, WAS TO ELICIT FROM VORSTER AN APPROVAL TO GO AHEAD WITH FURTHER PLANNING. SOMEWHAT TO HIS SURPRISE, MARTIN SAID, VORSTER ENCOURAGED HIM TO DO SO AND TO REPORT BACK WITHIN AS SHORT A TIME AS POSSIBLE. IN SO DOING THE PM REPORTEDLY DWELLED AT SOME LENGTH ON

"PROBLEMS" HE WAS HAVING RE-DESIGNING ADMINISTRATION OF THE CAPE PROVINCE. THOUGH PM DID NOT GIVE DETAILS, MARTIN GAINED IMPRESSION THAT VORSTER WAS STRUGGLING SOMEWHAT WITH A CONCEPTUAL PROBLEM, AND THAT HIS ENCOURAGEMENT TO NATAL TO PROCEED INDICATED THAT PM MIGHT WANT TO "PICK NATAL BRAINS" BY EXAMINING DETAILS OF THE INDABA IDEA.

3. MARTIN SAID HE AND MOST OF NATAL PROVINCIAL GOVT. CURRENTLY ARE BURNING THE MIDNIGHT OIL IN ATTEMPT TO PUT TOGETHER A PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTING THEIR CONCEPT. THIS, MARTIN INDICATED, CENTERED ON AN EXPANDED MULTI-RACIAL PROVINCIAL COUNCIL, PERHAPS 50-50 BLACK AND WHITE INCLUDING ZULUS, BUT WITH SOME FORM OF WEIGHTED VOTE POSSIBLY BASED ON RATEPAYERS' CONTRIBUTIONS. MARTIN INDICATED THERE COULD BE BUILT IN THE POSSIBILITY FOR CHANGES IN REPRESENTATION AS INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITIES ALTERED THEIR RESPECTIVE ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS A "TRIAL CONCEPT" ONLY AND COULD BE MUCH MODIFIED BEFORE IT WENT TO THE PM, OR AFTER. HE EXPECTS TO SEEK A FURTHER APPOINTMENT WITH VORSTER WITHIN TWO WEEKS TO DISCUSS THE NATAL IDEAS.

4. MARTIN IS ACUTELY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE INDABA PROJECT RECEIVE THE COOPERATION OF CHIEF BUTHELEZI AND THE ZULUS. HE IS TRAVELLING TO ULUNDI AUGUST 30 TO CONFER WITH BUTHELEZI. TO THIS POINT BUTHELEZI HAS SAID THAT, LACKING SPECIFIC DETAILS, HE WOULD DECLINE TO COMMENT ON THE INDABA

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DURBAN 00579 271434Z

IDEA BEYOND THE FACT THAT HE ALWAYS FAVORS TALKING ABOUT PROBLEMS RATHER THAN FIGHTING OVER THEM. BUTHELEZI CONFIRMED THIS ATTITUDE TO ME ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 26, BUT ADDED THAT THE MAJOR PROBLEM FOR HIM WAS HOW HIS POSSIBLE COOPERATION WITH MARTIN ET AL, IN WHAT MANIFESTLY WOULD BE WITHIN A PROVINCIAL FRAMEWORK, WOULD BE SEIZED BY BUTHELEZI'S ENEMIES TO PROVE HIS COLLABORATION WITH THE S.A. SYSTEM. OR HIS STATUS AS ONLY A "HOMELANDS" LEADER.

5. PLEASE PROTECT MARTIN AS SOURCE.  
FARBER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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